

## Yavneh Celebrates its 30th Year!

*“We want our children to rejoice in being Jewish; to realize the joys and values in life through the celebrations, ceremonies, and symbols of our history, theology, and ethics. The initial mission of the founding of Yavneh was, and is, to educate the American Jewish child with the best secular and Jewish education.”* - Rabbi Danzig, 1985

Yavneh Day School’s commitment to providing a challenging academic program within a strong Jewish community has remained steadfast through the decades, but this south bay institution has come a long way since its inception.

Then (1981)	Now (2011)
19 Students	174 Students
Preschool and Kindergarten	Junior Kindergarten through Eighth Grade
One Room School at Beth David	Two Stories of Classrooms on the Levy Family Campus
No accreditation	California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS)

Yavneh opened its doors in the fall of 1981 in a single room at Beth David. There were just 19 preschool and kindergarten students. Yavneh outgrew its home at Beth David that first year. In 1982, the JCC purchased the Oka Road site (then a medfly station), and welcomed a growing Yavneh to the new campus. When the Federation undertook the building of a new campus in 2002, Yavneh packed up its classrooms and moved to temporary quarters at the old Blackford High School. There it shared space with Kehillah High School and several other small independent schools. It was on the Blackford campus in 2002 where Yavneh officially added a middle school. In 2005, Yavneh moved back home to its current location, the Levy Family Campus. The new facility boasted spacious classrooms, a science lab, a multipurpose room, library, and wonderful yard and play structure.

Today, Yavneh is a highly sought after elementary and middle school drawing families from as far north as San Mateo and as far south as Santa Cruz. At a time when most local public and independent schools are cutting back their hours and programs, Yavneh remains committed to incorporating art, music, technology, Hebrew language, physical education, and science lab into the daily and weekly schedule. Yavneh also adopted the highly acclaimed Singapore Math curriculum, setting it apart from other schools in the area. Yavneh’s efforts over the years have seemingly paid off. Enrollment this year spiked by nearly 10%. The school hopes to continue to see an upsurge in enrollment, and remains firmly committed to providing financial aid so that every Jewish family has access to a Jewish day school education.

Yavneh has covered a lot of ground in the past three decades. On Sunday, March 18, 2012, Yavneh will celebrate its 30th anniversary with an 80's theme party and fundraiser, "Yavneh's Most Excellent Adventure." Yavneh is going to take it to the max with a totally cool party. This rad evening will feature

dinner, dancing, a silent auction, and lots of fun. Party goers will rock out to their favorite tunes from the 80's (hosted by Joel Nelson.) Be there or be square!!

But it's not just the prospect of a fun evening that will draw decades of Yavneh supporters to the event. Yavneh will honor the many individuals whose efforts have made the school the success it is today. Among those honored will be the past Board of Trustees Presidents including Cheryl Bader, Joel Rubnitz, Susan Ellenberg, Mishy Balaban, Karen Ceppos, Barb Tobias-Chappell, Phil Kipnis, Michael Leitner, Art Brody, Cyndi Sherman, Howard Klein, Sandy Mayer and Lynda Harmatz Weiss.

The event will also honor a much-loved teacher who has served Yavneh for more than 22 years: Ilana Friedlander. Morah Ilana, as she is known to decades of students, joined the Yavneh faculty in 1991 as a part-time Jewish Studies teacher in first grade, just two years after she moved from Israel with her husband and two children. As the school grew, so did Morah Ilana's responsibilities. Now Morah Ilana is the Hebrew Language Coordinator for the school as well as a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Hebrew and Jewish studies teacher. "Even though I'm so far away from my home (Israel), I feel that Yavneh is like my other home. I'm surrounded by good friends and wonderful children. I enjoy celebrating the holidays and speaking Hebrew with my students and colleagues, and I love sharing my knowledge with a new generation."

As Yavneh looks to the future, it hopes to continue to attract and retain the best faculty, further grow its science program, enhance the use of technology in the classroom, and build out its extracurricular programming in athletics, music and the arts.

If you would like more information on this tubular event, go to [www.yavnehdayschool.org](http://www.yavnehdayschool.org) and click on the 30th anniversary link.